



New South Wales Teachers Federation a branch of the Australian Education Union

AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697

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NSW PRESIDENT: Maurie Mulheron • NSW GENERAL SECRETARY: John Dixon



NSW Teachers Federation Media Release

Evidence of need for Gonski can't be ignored

Tuesday 22 March 2016

NSW Teachers Federation President Maurie Mulheron has renewed calls for the Australian government to fully fund the Gonski needs-based funding model. This call comes in the wake of recent analysis of NAPLAN results conducted by the Grattan Institute which shows that by year 9 students attending poorer schools were falling as much as two years behind their counterparts in wealthier schools.

“This analysis provides yet more evidence in support of the original findings of the Gonski review,” said Mr Mulheron, “demonstrating the critical need for equitable funding for every student in Australia.”

The Grattan Institute says policymakers need to “give schools better support to target teaching at each child’s needs; and work harder to improve the progress of disadvantaged students so that every child in every Australian school can achieve their potential”.

Mr Mulheron also challenged the Government to consider all available evidence on the impact of needs-based funding in Australian schools.

“There is undeniable evidence that needs-based funding is helping students achieve beyond what was previously possible, yet the Turnbull Government continues to ignore this evidence by refusing to fully fund the Gonski model,” Mr Mulheron said.

“We know that additional resources are making a difference, but Mr Turnbull’s current position is to cut funding from all schools in 2018-19 and beyond,” Mr Mulheron said.

“Prime Minister Turnbull and Minister Birmingham can’t keep ignoring evidence of the importance of needs-based funding in our schools,” he said. “The Government needs to commit to fully funding the model as part of the May budget for the sake of all Australian students.”

The Grattan Institute analysis was released only a day after a national day of action in support of the Gonski funding model which saw campaigners door-knocking in suburbs all over Australia to increase awareness and support for needs-based funding in schools.

In NSW, campaigners took the message to Malcolm Turnbull’s electorate of Wentworth, where recent ReachTEL polling shows that an overwhelming 79.7 per cent of voters support the needs based funding model.

Mr Mulheron pledged that teachers will continue campaigning to ensure that education funding remains a key issue in the coming federal election.



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